

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840].

“And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men” (LUKE 2: 13-14).

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SALUTATIONS OF THE SEASON.

“GLORY to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Thus the hosts of heaven rejoiced when the Savior was born, and good tidings of great joy was proclaimed to all people. A new star appeared, and a new dispensation was ushered in. Immediately Satan endeavored, through Herod, to destroy the new born King; but the infant was safeguarded by divine power.

Completing the preparation for his life's work, being baptized by John, endowed by the Holy Ghost, and acclaimed by His heavenly Father as “My beloved Son,” He began His ministry. Choosing His apostles. He taught them the gospel of eternal life, conferred upon them divine authority, and organized His Church. He healed the sick, raised the dead, and performed many wonderful miracles, He finished the work He came on earth to do. He gave up His life and atoned for the transgression of our first parents. He overcame death, and was the first-fruits of the resurrection.

Exalted to an eternal throne, at the side of His Father; possessing all power in heaven and in earth, He bade all men to follow Him, promising them eternal life and happiness, who observe the requirements of His gospel. What a wonderful truth!

Revealing Himself anew in these latter days, he has again established His Church, and commissioned His servants to prepare the way for His second coming, crying to the ends of the earth: “Repent ye, repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” This is no myth. It is a divine truth. To disseminate it the elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are dedicating their lives. For more than eighty years Great Britain has sheltered these men, while they have testified of the marvelous mission of our Lord.

We are grateful for what He has done, and gladly honor His natal day. Remembering the offering He made, the anguish He suffered; glorying in the resurrection and promise of eternal life, we hallow and revere His holy name. Let us so live that when our day on earth is done we shall be worthy to be one with Him, as He and the Father are one.

To my fellowmen, I commend the life of Jesus of Nazareth as the profoundest ideal of the ages. Strive to be like Him.

Durham House.

GEORGE ALBERT SMITH.

NEARLY two thousand years ago an angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds, who were keeping watch over their flocks by night, saying unto them, "Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." At this season of the year our thoughts and minds are concentrated on the mission of our Lord and Savior, who has set up, in the last days, His Church which shall never again be thrown down nor given to another people. "Righteousness has looked down from heaven and truth has sprung out of the earth." Communication between our Heavenly Father and His children on earth is again established. We are created in His image and lived with Him spiritually before we came here. After finishing this probation we shall render unto Him an account of our acts, while in mortality, which shall determine our place in eternity. We are children of the same kind parent, and should ever hold in sacred remembrance the admonition of the Savior, "Love one another." May every to-day find us living for the advent of His coming, which is near at hand.

Durham House.

LUCY WOODRUFF SMITH.

THE anchor is weighed, and our gallant vessel is gliding majestically down the Mersey. This missive must be posted with the pilot, hence may its brevity not lack spice.

For the second time God has privileged me to return to the land of my nativity, to bear record of His great revealed truth. What a rare privilege has been mine! Some there be who ignorantly or maliciously assail the custodians of God's truth; but, in general, the great British heart beats true, and will see to it that the traditional "fair-play" of the Briton is not an idle platitude.

I thought my stay in England would have been of longer duration, but the same authority that sent me here has now called me home, and I feel that our Father has accepted my meager offering. How shall I express my feelings of appreciation for the good, kind friends God has raised up to me in England, Scotland, and Wales? The tender association of Durham House! President Smith's overwhelming love and consideration; Sister

Smith, with her wonderful motherly heart; Elder Wells, the soul of willing service; Elder Wheeler, so patient, so kindly, so steadfast; Elder Cottam, with his great store of knowledge; Edith and Albert, the kind loving children of the President; Sisters Harriet Lowther and Maude Smith—ever ready to render a kindness—the theme is almost too sacred for public gaze. So it has been wherever I have gone throughout the mission—love, kindness, hospitality, the warm outpourings of hearts made tender by the gospel's sweet revealings.

With the Christmastide so imminent I ask that God will bless, strengthen, and sustain His loved ones in the land I am now leaving, and give to them a measure of the joy and happiness that will fill my father-heart in the coming reunion with my dear waiting wife and five loving children: and that to all of us it may be indeed a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

At Sea.

LON J. HADDOCK.

THE day breaks. Rising above the eastern mountain-tops, the sun dispels the gloom of night. Despite, however, his auspicious advent, he will shine, throughout the day, upon an untranquil world. His rays will disclose many a scene of horror.

In the morning twilight a lioness emerges from the jungle, holding between her cruel jaws the quivering body of a helpless gazelle. When the sun is high in the heavens, he sees, out in the tempestuous ocean, a gigantic whale devouring a struggling cuttle-fish. When the noon day has passed, a man in military garb conceals himself behind a log, and, taking careful aim, presses the trigger of his rifle. His victim falls, pierced through the heart; a loving wife is made a widow, happy children become fatherless. As the sun descends through the western skies, he witnesses the destruction wrought by floods, and views the havoc caused by fire. From a host of victims rises the appeal: "O Peace, come thou to earth!"

Ages have passed. The globe has undergone a change. It has been consecrated by the spirit of love. Gentleness is more potent than strength of limb. Kindness has supplanted stratagem. No longer are there two classes—the victors and the vanquished, the slayers and the slain. Peace has come at last. All creatures live without fear, for they have no foes. Happiness abounds, for there is no apprehension. No living thing is startled by a sound in the forest. All approaching footsteps are those of friends. No one derives profit from the suffering or misfortune of another. Life is to all a career of joy, and each is a source of happiness to all others. The child and the serpent play together; the tiger and the goat are friends; the forces of nature bring only benign results. Pain is absent; sorrow is unknown.

When the realities of to-day make man sick at heart, let his

spiritual eyes peer into the future, for he will behold the vision of ideal things, a world without strife, an earth celestialized.

Amid the festivities of the Christmas season may we think of the wonderful promises which the gospel makes to us. The earth and all that dwell upon it shall be rescued from the brutalizing grasp of Satan and placed in the beneficent keeping of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Liverpool.

JOHN E. COTTAM.

“BUT Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.”

Over nineteen hundred years have passed since the wonderful fact, slowly but surely unfolded to the mind of that mother, honored above all women, that she indeed had given birth to Him, who came not to bring peace alone into the world, but a sword also. Notwithstanding this declaration, He proclaimed the principles upon which a lasting peace can be builded. His wonderful teachings have withstood the unbelief of the ages and the wicked darts of the ungodly. As days grow into months and months into years, the farther we get away from that eventful day, when Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem of Judea, the stronger His light shines in the world, and the more people there are who see it and are willing to be guided by it.

Well might mankind rest from their labors at this season, turn their hearts unto Him, make merry and rejoice; for although He died on Calvary's Cross, yet He still lives to comfort, guide and protect. As the children of our Heavenly Father come to know that His name is the only one given under heaven whereby mankind can be saved, will they not search more earnestly for His light, obey His words of truth, and thus bring peace into the world and good will toward men.

Liverpool office.

T. M. WHEELER.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a happy New Year, President George Albert Smith, and all with you at good old Durham House, and all saints in the European mission! We send you the season's greetings and feel confident we express the sentiments of the saints of this mission, when we say with Tiny Tim, “The Lord bless us all.”

The holiday season finds us well in beautiful Switzerland, and our hearts are overflowing with gratitude and thanksgiving for the prospect of a glorious work being done in this mission in the near future. We close our eyes, for the while, to the famine, the distress, the pestilence, the unrest and the uncertainty that seem to enclose us on all sides, and in spirit we look into the future. The picture our imagination calls forth causes us to rejoice, for, if we mistake not, it is a picture of the gospel being preached with greater success than ever before in the countries forming the

Swiss and German mission; in spite of the famines, the revolutions and the persecutions that are before us. Do not think us unduly optimistic, if we let our enthusiasm and the spirit of the season lead us to sing that glorious hymn, "The morning breaks, the shadows flee."

Basel, Switzerland.

ANGUS J. CANNON.

I WAS born and raised a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The following is my testimony of its truth. I know that the Prophet Joseph Smith was a man called of God to establish His Church upon the earth: that Brigham Young and all of his successors were also called by the same authority, including the present President. I also know that this is not the Church of Joseph Smith, nor Brigham Young, nor any of its leaders, but it is the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ; and that these men were called and authorized to perform His work upon the earth.

In God's dealings with His children, He has always selected some of the most true and humble to accomplish His purposes. These men were of that class. My testimony is that the gospel, as taught by the Latter-day Saints, is of God; that its object is to save all mankind and exalt those who will obey it; and to prepare the world for the coming of the Messiah; that its destiny is to grow and increase until it shall cover the whole earth; and that no evil power brought to bear against it will be able to destroy or overthrow it.

Birmingham.

CHARLES W. HATCH.

"PEACE on earth, good will toward men," is the blessing the eternal Father has for His faithful children upon this earth. Peace and good will is my Christmas greeting to all readers of the *Millennial Star*. Let praise be given to our heavenly Father for the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, which plan alone can bring peace to all the earth. May our souls be filled with appreciation of this glorious plan, that we may hold fast through the tumults of this world! Let us realize that we are living in a grand and awful time, in an age that is sublime to us if we faithfully live and teach the truths of Jesus Christ. While the nations groan with strife and trouble, to those who have the truth there is an awakening to greater effort. We cannot afford to loiter or spend our time on worldly gain and pleasure, to aspire only to worldly honor. We must be up and doing, for we are needed in the Lord's great work. The time may be short, therefore let us give the best of our souls for the gospel's sake, that we may merit a place in the Millennial reign of peace, and enjoy, even at this Christmas time, a foretaste of that glorious rest.

Birmingham.

CAROLINE J. HATCH.

WE Latter-day Saints, of all people, should rejoice for the many blessings which God has bestowed upon us. For being sent upon the earth in the dispensation of the fulness of times, when His Church has again been established, with apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, etc., for the work of the ministry. What joy should fill our hearts to know we have accepted the first principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ, viz.: Faith, repentance, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands; also for obeying the law of the Lord in paying our tithes and offerings; in being baptized for the dead; in refraining from the use of tobacco, liquor, tea and coffee, or anything that is injurious to the body; in sacrificing time and money laboring for the salvation of mankind! Having the plan of salvation plainly set before us, we need not stumble and err. We know that Christ has again visited the earth; that He still lives and is guiding His Church by revelation as He did in ancient times; therefore, let us lift up our hearts and rejoice and give thanks unto God for this knowledge, and his many blessings; and show forth peace and good will unto men. Let us be among the righteous, whom the Lord loves to bless and prosper, and have His Spirit in our hearts and homes.

I am happy to be with the Leeds saints, and wish every one of them the choice blessings of the Lord, and cordial greetings of the season.

Bradford.

LEONARD H. WHIPPLE.

ONCE again "Father Time," gray, old and bent, has brought us to the happy season of Christmas-tide. And such a wonderful season it is, too, especially this year. The world is in the gap, between the old and the new order of things. Some say that it is the day of reconstruction, and others declare that it is the hour of destruction. The Latter-day Saints believe that it is a period when both of these agencies are playing their part. They know that it is a time when their testimonies are bearing down heavily upon the nations, and that God is vindicating His prophecies. So, knowing that they have been faithful and have naught against any man, their hearts gratefully turn to home, loved ones and God.

This Christmas is unique in the history of the Church and mission. The President and his associates are pre-eminently trained and fitted for the time, and also for the positions they occupy. Never before was the Church so strong or the members so faithful. No page of our past can show more devoted and inspired leaders. Neither can the records of forgotten years show that they were more beloved or lived more in the hearts of the people. Our unity, love, and fellowship is proverbial, and our cause is the greatest. And so, fellow-laborers, I extend to you the

season's greetings of a most happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Deseret, London.

JAMES GUNN MCKAY.

It is a great pleasure to send my greetings to the readers of the *Millennial Star*. We have all appreciated the *Star* as a most valuable missionary, which has kept us in touch with one another, and has helped to develop us intellectually and spiritually. At this most joyful season, our thoughts linger fondly on the pleasant memories of the past year; and our hearts swell with love and gratitude to God for all His many blessings. Our hearts also reach out to the saints who are striving to live up to the principles of the gospel; for we feel that we are indeed brothers and sisters and the children of God. I rejoice because of my fellowship with you, and that I am permitted to live and learn among you. Kindly accept my very best wishes for a most joyful Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Deseret, London.

ANNA O. MCKAY.

“WHILE shepherds watched their flocks by night,
 All seated on the ground,
 The angel of the Lord came down,
 And glory shone around.”

With what joy and thanksgiving should the Latter-day Saints look forward to the advent of Christmas-tide! To them it is a dual festival. It is the period of the year held in remembrance of Christ's nativity; and closely associated with this date, is also the birthday of the Prophet Joseph Smith, born December 23rd, 1805. The great prophet of the nineteenth century, yea, the greatest prophet the world has ever known, with the exception of Christ himself. This dual event brings rejoicing and thanksgiving to all Latter-day Saints. They love the story of Christ's humble birth in the stable at Bethlehem, and His manger cradle; and dear to their hearts is the story of Joseph Smith's humble birth, under that lowly roof in the obscure little farming village of Sharon.

Among the early Christians of the second century there was no uniformity in the observance of the Savior's birthday; some celebrated it in April. Students of high authority now assert that Christ was born in April. The Prophet Joseph Smith was commanded to organize the Church on the 6th day of April, 1830; and the Latter-day Saints believe that day is the true anniversary of the Messiah's birth. We not only rejoice in the anniversary of these dual birthdays, but in joyful anticipation look forward to the fulfilment of the prophecy of the near return of our Lord and Savior to this earth.

Dublin.

BENJAMIN R. BIRCHALL.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1919.

EDITORIAL.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

IN so many forms, especially employing the printer's art, the above heading becomes familiar throughout all Christendom at this season of the year. It is not easy to discover an original salutation or sentiment, though we present a few in this issue. The prophets and poets are quoted, the preachers vie with each other in eloquent expressions of adoration of the Lord and love of their fellowmen. They do indeed draw near to him with their lips, wheresoever their hearts may be. What would not mankind give to hear the voice of an angel, or even of a real prophet, whom they knew to be a true one, declaring the second advent of the Messiah, as His birth was foretold, with the solemn certainty of the angel Gabriel, who was sent from God, or with the authority of John the Baptist, as "the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

It is not recorded that mankind, as such, was greatly impressed by these forerunners of the Savior. It was to but a few that the glad tidings of great joy came and was believed. To those who did accept the ministry of enlightenment the glorious truth was the pearl of great price indeed, and their souls were filled with wondering expectation, with eager hope, with praise and thanksgiving.

But to the multitude no angel appeared, no prophetic voice was heard.

It is even so in these latter days. The world professes faith in Christ, and forbids the possibility of coming to a knowledge of Him, through the ministry of angels and the prophets. But, to the faithful, the Lord has come. His angels have appeared and delivered their messages, as directed, from the presence of God. Time, and not a long time now, will bring this truth to the knowledge of all the world. The saints are promulgating it in joy and satisfaction, for they know that the Lord is with them, that it is His work, and they rejoice in it and in praising Him for the testimonies He has given them; for the manifold mercies and blessings accompanying their ministry.

To the writers and readers of the *Millennial Star* we send greeting and appreciative thanks for the favor of their contributions and support; for expressions of goodwill and approval. We are conscious of many deficiencies and imperfections in the paper, as it has appeared during the latter half of the volume now

finished. It is our hope to offer some improvement in the next volume, and that with the continued liberal patronage of the people, the sympathetic assistance of the missionaries and others who love it and desire its prosperity, and with the blessings of the Lord, we trust to keep alive the light, which has so brilliantly shone through the eighty years of its existence—a light in the path and a guide to the feet of many thousands.

J. F. W.

A PROPHECIC ANNUNCIATION.

PERHAPS among the prophetic announcements of the coming of the Savior none was more specific, except that of the angel to His parents, than that of Samuel the Lamanite. This servant of God came into the land of Zarahemla, in the eighty-sixth year of the reign of the judges from his own people, who had become an obedient people, observing the commandments of God according to the law of Moses. He was inspired to preach repentance to the Nephites, who in time had become an arrogant, wealthy, unbelieving people, given to all manner of wickedness. In his efforts to bring them to a consciousness of their guilt and repentance of their sins, he spent many days preaching to them; but with small success. They would not heed him; they would not have him, and they cast him out. He was, therefore, about to return to his own land when he received the visitation of an angel with this message from the Lord:

“But behold, the voice of the Lord came unto him, that he should return again, and prophesy unto the people whatsoever things should come into his heart.”

In trying to do this he was opposed by the citizens of Zarahemla, and they would not suffer that he should enter into the city. He, therefore, “got upon the wall thereof and stretched forth his hand, and cried with a loud voice, and prophesied unto the people whatsoever things the Lord put into his heart.”

These prophecies dealt with the complete debasement, overthrow, and destruction of the Nephite people within four hundred years, and of the almost entire extinction of the Lamanites as well, except that a remnant of the latter race should survive to realize in the latter days, the fulfilment of many great predictions concerning them. Samuel's remarkable prophecies were referred to or quoted, in later times, by the Lord himself, and by the Prophets Nephi, Mormon, Moroni and others, who also bore record of their fulfilment.

While he proclaimed them from the walls of the city, the inhabitants attempted to stone him and shot arrows at him, “but,” it is written, “the Spirit of the Lord was with him, insomuch that they could not hit him with their stones, neither with their arrows.” This miraculous preservation of his life caused certain

of his hearers to believe his words, and they went and sought the Prophet Nephi to be baptized. They and their descendants constituted a community of faithful, devoted saints for many years, and became a prosperous and happy people. The greater part of the people, however, hardened their hearts, against Samuel. They declared that it was because of the power of the devil in him that they could not hit him with their stones and arrows, and they called out to take him and bind him and away with him. "And as they went forth to lay their hands on him, behold, he did cast himself down from the wall, and did flee out of their land, yea, even unto his own country, and began to preach and to prophesy among his own people. And behold, he was never heard of more among the Nephites."

The particular prediction to which we have alluded, and that we think will be read by the saints, with intense interest at this Christmastide, is found in the fourteenth chapter of the Book of Helaman and is as follows:

"And behold, he said unto them, Behold, I give unto you a sign; for five years more cometh, and behold, then cometh the Son of God to redeem all those who shall believe on his name. And behold, this will I give unto you for a sign at the time of his coming; for behold, there shall be great lights in heaven, insomuch that in the night before he cometh there shall be no darkness, insomuch that it shall appear unto man as if it were day, therefore there shall be one day and a night and a day, as if it were one day, and there were no night; and this shall be unto you for a sign; for ye shall know of the rising of the sun, and also of its setting; therefore they shall know of a surety that there shall be two days and a night; nevertheless the night shall be the night before he is born. And behold there shall a new star arise, such an one as ye never have beheld; and this also shall be a sign unto you. And behold this is not all, there shall be many signs and wonders in heaven. And it shall come to pass that ye shall be amazed, and wonder, insomuch that ye shall fall to the earth. And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall believe on the Son of God, the same shall have everlasting life."

The fulfilment of this wonderful declaration, so boldly made to an angry populace, was not less dramatic. It is recorded in the first chapter of III. Nephi. In it we are told that in the beginning of the ninety-second year many signs and wonders began to appear in fulfilment of many prophecies, and miracles were wrought among the people. Nevertheless, the unbelievers were as full as ever of prejudice and derision. They began to say that the time was past for the words to be fulfilled, which were spoken by Samuel the Lamanite; and they made a great uproar among the people, causing those who believed to become very sorrowful, lest by any means the things that had been spoken should not come to pass. They, however, "did watch steadfastly for that

day and that night and that day which shall be as one day, as if there were no night, that they might know that their faith had not been in vain."

It appears that the unbelievers, who were the greater part of the people, had decreed that all who believed in these traditions, as they called them, should be put to death "except the sign should come to pass, which had been given by Samuel the Lamanite." With this dire threat hanging over them, their prophet, Nephi, who was the son of Nephi, and grandson of Helaman, became exceedingly sorrowful because of the wickedness of his people, and the imminence of destruction to the faithful, which now seemed to be at hand. He went forth and bowed himself down upon the earth and cried mightily to his God, in behalf of his people and behold the voice of the Lord came unto him saying:

"Lift up your head and be of good cheer, for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world, to show unto the world that I will fulfil all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets. Behold, I come unto my own, to fulfil all things which I have made known unto the children of men, from the foundation of the world. and do the will, both of the Father, and of the Son; of the Father, because of me, and of the Son, because of my flesh. And behold, the time is at hand, and this night shall the sign be given. * * * And there were many, who had not believed the words of the prophets, fell to the earth and became as if they were dead. * * * And it came to pass that there was no darkness in all that night, but it was as light as though it was mid-day. And it came to pass that the sun did rise in the morning again, according to its proper order; and they knew that it was the day that the Lord should be born, because of the sign which had been given. * * * And it came to pass also, that a new star did appear, according to the word."

The confirmation of the Bible's account of the birth of the Savior, here given in quotations from the Book of Mormon, establishes the unity of those two volumes of ancient Scripture. With what comfort and satisfaction the household of faith contemplates this fact; that, concerning every important event mentioned in the two records, there is perfect accord, one explaining and often illuminating the other, but never in opposition or denial.

J. F. W.

"THE HEAVENS ARE SEALED."

In James 1: 5-6 we read, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." Is it not a beautiful thought to know that our Father in heaven is ready and willing to impart to us what knowledge will be for our upbuilding? Joseph Smith was a

reader of the Bible. When he came to this passage it appealed to him, and appreciating his lack of knowledge pertaining to certain things, he asked his Heavenly Father to enlighten him. He declared to the world that two personages appeared to him; two exalted men, God the Father, and His Son Jesus Christ. They conversed with him and told him what he desired to know. As soon as he made this known many of his friends turned against him. Men who claimed to be ministers, and servants of the Almighty scorned him, and proclaimed his statement to be of the devil. They went so far as to tell their followers to have nothing to do with him. But this did not change him. He could not deny what he knew to be true; and, as long as he lived upon this earth, he never once wavered in upholding it; and finally he sealed his testimony with his life's blood.

The ministers said that the heavens were sealed, that revelation was of the past, and that God no more spoke to His children. In spite of their utterances, they claimed to believe the Bible, which says in Amos 3: 7, "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." If, then, He has ceased to reveal His mind and will to men, He has quit working for their betterment. In other words, He has deserted them and left them "on their own." Why do these ministers pray to Him, if their prayers are unheeded by Him? If He would strive to do all in His power to help and bless ancient Israel, and those who were before us, by revealing His mind and will to them, why would He not do the same to-day? The Bible clearly points out that He is not a respecter of persons; but if He would close the heavens to men and women of this day and age, He would most certainly be a respecter of persons. What earthly father would favor his oldest sons and pay no heed to the needs of those who came later?" We can see, then, that the arguments of these men, who claim to be of God, are vain and in direct discord with His word. They are indirectly opposing the Creator of heaven and earth.

In Ezra 8: 22, we read, "The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him." Surely Joseph Smith sought him, and is here promised a blessing, which followed; but those who only profess to be Christians and believers in His word, will feel his wrath, if they depart from His counsels and forsake Him.

"The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money; yet will they lean upon the Lord, and say, Is not the Lord among us? none evil can come upon us." This passage of Scripture, found in Micah 3: 11, is very fitting to the priests and divines, who oppose the gospel as restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith. "They have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof."

GEORGE ALBERT SMITH, JR.

TWO WOMEN.

I KNOW two women, one is wedded to a drunkard, gambler, and wife-beater, who takes no interest in his home and children. She has had many great troubles, and death has recently taken some of her loved ones. She has people about her who sneer at her ways and find fault in all that she does. Yet she declares that she is one of the happiest women on this earth. Why? She is a Latter-day Saint. God supports her in all that she does. He gives her wisdom in dealing with those around her. The gospel is her strong tower, and nothing can hurt her.

The other woman has a good husband, earning good money, so that she and her children can live in comfort. He is her companion, her trials are no more than can be found in the ordinary prosperous home, yet her days are spent in grumbling over trifles; she is moody and unhappy. She is a Gentile. She does not know of the wonderful happiness that can be obtained. She has never heard of the gospel which, when obeyed, brings such perfect peace. Her religion is put on with her Sunday dress, and packed away with it on Monday morning; she has no "strong tower," no protection; and all the tiny pricks and stings of life can get at her and irritate.

Believe me, the first woman is to be envied rather than the second.

Dorset.

EVA SALWAY, SEN.

AT THE SHELL-HOLE.

"FREEDOM and reason make us men,
Take these away, what are we then?"

One dreary night in winter, when the world-war was raging on the European continent, a great red-hot metallic shot came tearing through the air with a demoniac scream, like the "crack o' doom," and suddenly churned deeply in the earth. It spread death and destruction to everything that came within its hellish blast, and caused an ugly wound on the face of the beautiful landscape. Then the mighty armies advanced.

Scarcely had they left the place when a working party of Nature's invisible workmen arrived on the scene. One of them asked, "What caused this ugly sore?" another replied, "Dark ignorance." Well, let us get to work and nurse it back to its natural health. So they began, with a perfect knowledge of what they were doing; not relaxing for a single hour, day or night, all through the winter and spring, into the early summer. For a balm they poured into the wound gallons of pure, crystal water. When it was filled to the brim, it gleamed in the sun like a pot of molten silver. They embanked the crystal pool with emerald green moss, and bespangled it with buttercups and daisies, and tiny violets,

with dear little faces that looked like baby fairies tripping to their bath. They sent all hues of butterflies to kiss the flowers, blue and gold dragonflies to ripple the gleaming water, chirping swallows to skim in and out of it, and scores of bronze froglings to play at splash and dash till their hearts were content.

But there was one heart that was not content. It was the heart of a war-weary, dirty, and thirsty soldier, who, on his way down the line had stopped to fill his water-bottle, and quench his parching thirst at the refreshing pool. As he stooped to fill the bottle, he saw reflected in the water the image of a man, distorted and half dead. As he gazed slowly around him, he began to think. Then it suddenly dawned upon him that this world was naturally a good and a wonderful place, for even in this small radius of thirty yards he could see peace, unity, beauty and life. He was wondering what was the cause that made this particular place look so real and beautiful. One of the angel workmen, who was standing near by, read his thoughts, and said to him, "Hello, man! do not be afraid of me. I am your brother, only I saw this world long before you did. You were wondering what made this place look so lovely. Light and intelligence, brother! Light and intelligence would make all the world as real and beautiful as this place, if men would just stop and think."

"In her right hand she holds to view
 A length of happy days,
 And wealth, with splendid honors joined.
 Are what her left displays.
 According as her labors rise
 So her rewards increase;
 Her ways are ways of pleasantness
 And all her paths are peace."

"I am very pleased to have met you and to hear you speak," said the weary one, for my heart is sick and tired of war and strife. As brothers they shook hands: the firm grip, the calm brilliancy of the elder, sent a thrill of peace and joy through the soldier, such as he had never experienced in all his mortal life. He was filled with a strange new light, which enabled him to see the rule of the universe, as he never had seen it before. And he thought that he could see the sword of justice bathed in heaven ready to fall with destruction upon nations and men, who try to win their way by vain ambition, by fraud, or by the sword. He could see that abiding peace on earth could only come when wise men, who govern the nations, grow more wise, and acquire a clearer vision of the destiny of the world, to be a habitation of intelligence and peace; and not of ignorance, enmity, and bloodshed. So the brothers parted at the old shell-hole; the soldier imbued with the lofty thoughts of a true brotherhood, a real league of men and nations.

Dundee.

DOUGLAS SHEPHERD.

MOTHER.

HER gentle presence filled a home
 With comfort and delight,
 That radiated from her soul
 Like soft celestial light.
 It fell around us like a glow
 Of sunshine from above,
 And filled our hearts with solace true,
 From a sweet transcendent love.

Her magic kiss dispelled the cares
 That crowded thick and fast:
 Lo! ere we knew it, unawares,
 Our sorrows all had passed;
 A word, a touch, the deed was wrought,
 She healed a bleeding heart,
 Those sad'ning things were all forgot,
 So wondrous was her art.

She realized her noblest call
 In toiling for her own;
 A benediction fell on all
 Within that hallowed home,
 She moved about, her gentle voice
 Like music's softest strain
 Went out to make a world rejoice,
 An infinite refrain.

Ah, greater love hath none than this;
 For every life she gave;
 Her own she put upon the rack
 Serenely faced the grave;
 Her cup of sorrow oft ran o'er
 The days filled up with cares
 She lived to bless the lives she bore
 With love, and tears, and prayers.

SELECTED.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

Reorganization.—Sunday, December 7th, 1919, the Hammersmith Sunday-school was reorganized by President James Gunn McKay. Following are the new officers: André K. Anastasiou, superintendent; Henry G. Salt, and Thomas Hailes, assistants; Annie Winder, secretary; Ethel Frogley, organist; Ralph J. Pugh and Ethel Frogley, teachers.

Married.—On September 16th, 1919, Sister Ellen S. Rennie, of the Scottish conference, was married to Doctor Amand Sénès, at Marseille, France.

On November 25th, 1919, Sister Catherine K. H. Hood, of the

Scottish conference, was married to Captain Herbert Marsh, R. A. F.

On October 14th, 1919, Brother Alfred Moorhead and Sister Zella McCready, of Luton branch, were married.

Release and Departure.—Elder Lon J. Haddock upon cable advice from the First Presidency of the Church, was released to return home. It is understood that important business matters require his services there. He sailed on the *Empress of France*, for St. John, N. B., December 9th, 1919. While parting with him reluctantly, we wish him a safe journey and happy reunion with family and friends at home. He has performed a faithful mission since his arrival in Great Britain, June 25th, winning the confidence of the saints, and bearing faithful witness to many people.

Branch Conference.—A very successful branch conference was held at Gateshead, Newcastle conference, Sunday, November 30th, 1919. Three sessions were held; the first was taken up by the children of the Gateshead Sunday-school, with a very bright program. The next meeting was for the priesthood and lady missionaries. Several reports were given by the representatives of the organizations, and by the lady missionaries. It was indeed gratifying to hear the same. At the evening meeting the hall was well filled, many visitors being present from South Shields branch. The speakers were President David E. Randall and Elder Leonard A. Higgins. Solos were rendered by Sister Grace Brown and Sister Foster.

DIED.

HOLMES.—At the age of ninety, Sister Ann Hill Holmes, of the Norwich branch, November 20th, 1919. She was born at Sprowston, Norfolk, on November 12th, 1830; baptized November 15th, 1898, by Elder John F. Porter. Just before her death she expressed the wish for the elders to be present at her funeral, and bore a strong testimony of the gospel.

SOMERVILLE.—On December 17th, 1918, of influenza and old age, John Somerville, of Airdrie branch. He was born September 15th, 1840, baptized September 14th, 1918, by Elder D. McAllister.

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